

REMARKS

The Official Action of March 23, 2005, rejects claims 1-22 as unpatentable for reasons of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kaneko (US Pat. 3,935,613) in view of Chung et al (US Pat. 4,227,281). This ground of rejection is courteously traversed as it applies to the claims now presented for further examination.

While Chung et al do disclose a spring member 60 for engagement between edges of caster plate 44 and side retaining flanges 56 and 58 of caster pad 50 (See Fig. 5) to securely hold the caster plate 44 to the caster pad 50, that portion of the spring member 60 extending past the perimeter of the caster pad 50 requires a flange 52. Flange 52, according to col. 4, lines 7, et seq., of Chung et al, has cut-out portions 66 in the flange which engage with the loop portion of the extension of spring 60. According to Chung et al the looped extension engages with cut-out portions 66 in the adjacent flange to prevent movement of spring 60 back and forth in directions 62 (See Fig. 3 of Chung et al), and the potential for disconnection of caster plate 44, and the caster from the caster pad.

Hence, the extended looped portion of spring member 60 running outside the perimeter of caster pad 50, according to Chung et al, is required to interact with the adjacent flange 52 to avoid unlocking of the caster plate 44 and caster. In contrast with Chung et al, neither embodiment of Kaneko's detachable caster plates have flanges adjacent to resilient stopper 16 (Embodiment of Fig. 1 of Kaneko) or tongue 46 (embodiment of Fig. 3 of Kaneko) needed to engage with spring 60 as required by Chung et al.

In addition, Applicants' claim 1 (currently amended) provides the extension means having a length extending past the perimeter of the caster bracket is a non-flanged edge. Support for this aspect of the invention is provided by Fig. 3.

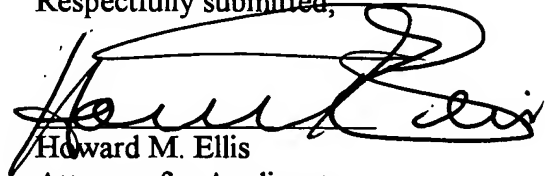
Because Kaneko do not utilize a caster plate having a flange at the edge adjacent to the locking means, utilization of Chung et al's spring 60 on the caster plates of Kaneko would not be an appropriate substitution, as alleged. Chung et al's spring extension is dependent on the presence a flange having cut-outs, as discussed above, and the caster brackets of Kaneko lack such a flange. Therefore, the introduction of a spring 60 according to Chung et al would not be suitable for use in the caster assemblies of Kaneko. Applicants' claim 1 has been appropriately amended.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-22 as obvious over Kaneko in view of Chung et al are courteously solicited.

In view of the amendment of claim 1, and the remarks distinguishing over the references of record, this Application should now be in condition for allowance. Notification of the same at an early date is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard M. Ellis", is written over the typed name.

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